



IFW
1725

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: STIEGLBAUER ET AL. - 1 PCT
SERIAL NO: 10/519,873 EXAMINER: KEVIN P. KERNS
FILED: DECEMBER 30, 2004 GROUP: 1725
TITLE: ELECTRODE PROTECTION DEVICE, SPOT-WELDING TOOL AND
RESISTANCE WELDING METHOD

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

MAIL STOP: AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 9, 2006,
Applicants respectfully respond as follows:

An **Election of Inventions** begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 3 of this paper.

Election of Inventions:

The Patent Examiner has required the selection of one of the following inventions for further prosecution:

Group I: Claims 1-4 and 6-9, drawn to a device comprising of at least two superimposed metal strips for protection of an electrode;

Group II: Claims 10-19, drawn to spot welding tools having pressure element for holding workpieces or guiding strip; or

Group III: Claims 20-22, drawn to a resistance welding method with detection of contact of a spot welding tool with a workpiece.

ELECTION:

Applicants respectfully elect, with traverse, the invention of Group I, Claims 1-4 and 6-9, drawn to a device comprising of at least two superimposed metal strips for protection of an electrode, for further prosecution.